

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in certain claims is noted with appreciation. A number of claims have been editorially revised to improve clarity, without affecting their allowability.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), independent Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention intended to be claimed. At least as presently amended, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from U.S. Patent No. 6,715,041 to Avraham, which constitutes the basis for the rejection.

Claim 1, now more clearly sets forth that when the emergency stop signal is received from outside, the information processor stops an operation being performed and enters a no-response state in which no response is given to a subsequent process request from the outside.

Avraham, on the other hand, is directed to overcoming a problem of the background art in which it is necessary to stop a first process (in the middle of reading and writing) before processing a second request (see Avraham, Col.1, lines 31-35). It is apparent from the above-referenced portion of Avraham, that after stopping the first process,

the system of the background art does not enter a no-response state as defined in Claim 1. Rather, in contrast to Applicants' invention, the system of the background art proceeds with processing of the second request after stopping the first process.

Applicants therefore respectfully urge that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

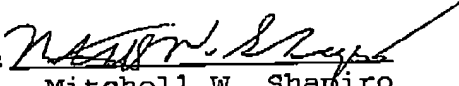
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS/PLS:sjk

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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